

REMARKS

Throughout this amendment deletions are stricken through or double bracketed and added text is underlined.

By this amendment claims 1-6 and 8-15 have been amended, claim 7 has been canceled, and new claim 16 has been added. Claims 1-6 and 8-16 remain for consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1, 13, 15, and 16 are the only independent claims remaining for consideration. This amendment does not introduce any new matter.

The indication by the Examiner that claims 7-9 contain allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

Claim 1 has been amended to call for at least one of the contact areas to meet the requirement $V \geq 25$, where $V = \frac{L^2}{F}$, L is the perimeter of the contact area, and V is the size, i.e. surface area, of the contact area. None of the applied art teaches or suggests a contact element having at least one contact area that meets the requirement $V \geq 25$. Accordingly, claim 1 as amended should now be in condition for allowance. In view of the patentably distinguishable characteristic of the at least one contact area of amended claim 1, the limitation regarding the cooling of the contact element was no longer deemed necessary for patentability and accordingly has been eliminated from amended claim 1. Support for this amendment can be found in the 2nd full paragraph on page 8 of the original specification.

Claims 13 and 15 have also been amended along the same lines as claim 1 and should therefore also be in condition for allowance. Claim 15 has been further

amended to place the claim in the proper form for a method claim in U.S. practice.

Claim 16 is essentially the same as claim 7 written in independent form. As the Examiner has already indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if written in independent form, claim 16 should be allowable.

Claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14 depend from claims 1, 13, and 16 and should therefore also be in condition for allowance. With respect to claim 3, because a simple, flat circular plane does not fall within the range for V set forth in claim 1, claim 3 had to be amended. Support for the amendment to claim 3 can be found on page 9, last full paragraph, of the original specification.

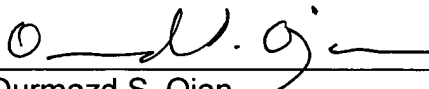
The specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and to provide section headings in keeping with customary U.S. practice. The expression for calculating V has been added to the detailed description for both the embodiments of Figs. 2-4 and for the embodiments of Fig. 5. The first full paragraph on page 1 of the original specification has been moved to the section newly titled "Summary of the Invention." In addition, the specification has been amended to make it clear that in the context of the present invention the word "print" is used in the specification as a synonym for the word "press." Note that the title of the invention was changed by a prior amendment. A new filing receipt reflecting the new title is hereby requested.

For the reasons stated above, the applicant respectfully submits that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If in the Examiner's opinion that is not the case, the Applicant asks that the Examiner kindly contact the undersigned by telephone in an effort to resolve any outstanding issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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